1898.

. . . ANNUAL REPORT . . .

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council.

GENTLEMAN,

At the Census 1891 the population of your district was 14,239, but since then it has increased very considerably. At the end of 1898 I estimated it to be 16,563, and at the middle of the year 16,426, The following percentages are based on this last number and must appear higher than they really are, as the population must be nearer 18,000.

269 DEATHS were registered, being an increase of 51 over 1897, when the number was 218. In 1896 there were 256 deaths; in 1895, 310; in 1894, 259; in 1893, 251; and in 1892, 246;

THE DEATHS were at the rate of 16·37 per thousand. In 1897 the death rate was 13·5 per thousand; in 1896 it was 16·1 per thousand; in 1895 it was 19·9 per thousand; in 1894 it was 16·9; in 1893 it was 16·7; in 1892 it was 16·6; and in 1891 it was 22·8. The deaths under 5 years of age were at the rate of 9·61 per thousand, and those over 5 years of age at the rate of 6 82 per thousand.

THE ZYMOTIC death rate was 1·03 and much lower than last year. Infant mortality rate, 226; Phthisis death rate, 0·97 per thousand; Respiratory death rate, excluding Phthisis, 3·1 per thousand.

8 INQUESTS were held and there were 11 uncertified deaths. Of these 5 were attributed to natural causes and 1 each Apoplexy, Consumption of Bowel, Epilepsy, Gastro Enteritis, Infantile debility and Syncope.

535 BIRTHS were registered during the year being 29 more than in the previous year. 299 were males and 236 were females. The births were at the rate of 32·5 per thousand. In 1897 the birth rate was 31·3 per thousand; in 1896 it was 33·3; in 1895 it was 35·3; in 1894 it was 37·4; in 1893 it was 35·6; and in 1892 it was 38·6 per thousand. The natural increase of the population was 274, or at the rate of 16·6 per thousand.

92 CASES of infectious diseases were notified, being 3 more than in the previous year when there were 89. In 1896 there were 142 ; in 1895, 318 ; in 1894, 376 ; in 1893, 323 ; and in 1892, 200 cases.

OF the 92 cases 47 were Scarlet Fever, 24 were Erysipelas, 18 were Typhoid Fever, 1 was Diphtheria, 1 was Membranous Croup, and 1 was Puerperal Fever. (See Table B annexed to this report).

MOST OF the infected premises were visited by your Inspector and myself and the usual instructions given. Disinfectants were also supplied where necessary.

20 PATIENTS were removed to the Hospital ; 13 were suffering from Scarlet Fever and 7 from Typhoid Fever. Of the Scarlet Fever cases, 3 were removed from the East Ward and 10 from the Centre Ward. Of the typhoid cases, 2 were from the East Ward, 3 from the Centre Ward, and two from the West Ward. Altogether 25 patients were treated in the Hospital during the year. 20 were discharged cured and one died. At the end of December 4 remained under treatment.

63 HOUSES were stoved by your official and all infected clothing was passed through the "Disinfector." There were no return cases of fever.

THERE WAS no epidemic of infectious disease during the year, but in addition to the cases notified there were a few cases of Measles during the summer months.

THE Brandon Village Water Supply again failed during the dry summer months, and the village was supplied with Waskerley Water from mains near the Hospital. Since that time the village has been permanently supplied with the Waskerley Water.

AN OIL ENGINE AND PUMP have been fixed to the mains at the Hospital for the purpose of pumping the water to a cistern (capable of holding about 4000 gallons) which has been erected in the village and from which the water is distributed by means of three anti-freezing stand pillars. I think this has most effectually settled a very difficult question and must be regarded as a very great Sanitary improvement. Several of the property owners intend having the Water put into the houses.

THE WASKERLEY WATER was also laid to the cottages at Waterhouses Brickyard and brought much nearer the houses than was the old supply.

PERIODICAL EXAMINATIONS of the district were made by your Surveyor and myself, Sanitary defects noticed and remedied.

The following work was done during the year :—

A NEW DRAIN with properly trapped sinks and gulleys was laid at the back of School Street, Langley Moor, for 22 houses, and new spouting and down pipes were fixed.

14 NEW TRAPPED SINKS were put in at the back of Church Street, New Brancepeth Colliery, thus removing the drainage from the ashpits into a proper drain. 14 were also put in at West Terrace, Waterhouses.

3 NEW PRIVY ASHPITS were built at the back of Herbert Street, Langley Moor.

36 OF THE ASH-CLOSETS at Lymington Terrace, Waterhouses, were altered and are a very great improvement on the old ones. One new one was built.

24 BACK-YARDS were repaired.

A NEW SEWAGE PRECIPITATING TANK was built at New Brancepeth Colliery, and also one at Waterhouses. They were both Cosham's patent.

5 PLANS were passed for the erection of 59 dwelling houses and 8 were passed for alterations and improvements to property. A plan for a new Chapel and School at Esh was also passed.

IN July we made our Annual Inspection of cowsheds and dairies visiting 32 in all. These we found in good order and generally satisfactory. A few were still unwhitened, but the occupiers promised to attend to that without delay.

THE SCAVENGING was again done by contractors and was well attended to except in the East Ward. Carbolic powder was used in and about the ashpits after being cleaned out.

THE DISTRICT is still free from common lodging houses and tenamented property. No offensive trades are carried on in it.

370 WRITTEN AND 410 VERBAL NOTICES were given for the abatement of nuisances and all were attended to.

IN CONCLUSION, I consider the year a very satisfactory one. The death-rate, 16·3 per thousand—was rather lower than in former years, and the number of infectious diseases notified was also less. Very great sanitary improvements were also made.

Appended are the official tables A and B filled in as required.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HENRY SMITH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Durham, 30th January, 1899.

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the Brandon & Byshottles Urban Sanitary District classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.) (a)	Mortality from all Causes, at subjoined Ages. At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5. (d)	5 and under 15. (e)	15 and under 25. (f)	25 and under 65. (g)	65 and upwards (h)	(i)	Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age. 1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diptheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Fevers. Typhus	6 Enteric or Typhoid	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12 Measels	13 Whooping Cough	14 Diarrhœa and Dysentery	15 Rheumatic Fever	16 Phthisis	17 Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	18 Heart Disease	19 Influenza	20 Injuries	21 All Other Diseases	22 Total
EAST WARD	88	44	12	2	4	19	7	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	1	12	..	..	..	40	57
								5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	3	5	2	1	14	31
CENTRE WARD	133	71	10	5	9	23	15	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	16	2	..	..	56	80
								5 upwds.	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	7	10	7	2	4	16	53
WEST WARD	48	16	5	3	6	8	10	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	5	1	..	..	13	21
								5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	2	2	2	13	27
Totals . ..	269	131	27	10	19	50	32	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	8	..	1	33	3	..	..	109	158
								5 upwds.	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	15	18	14	6	7	43	111

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(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, *coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year* 1898, *in the Brandon & Byshottles Urban Sanitary District; classified according to* Diseases, Ages, *and* Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics: Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at All Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
									Fevers													Fevers								
(a)	Last Census (b)	Estimated to middle of 1898 (c)	(d)	(e)	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas		
EAST WARD				Under 5	..	6	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..
				5 upwds	..	4	1	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CENTRE WARD.. H				Under 5	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 upwds	..	11	..	..	..	5	..	..	1	..	9	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
WEST WARD				Under 5	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 upwds	..	12	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals				Under 5	..	20	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 upwds	..	27	1	..	..	18	..	..	1	..	21	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

"Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory and has been since 1891. The Isolation Hospital is situated near Brandon Village in Centre Ward.